

S. 425. A bill to require the approval of Congress for the imposition of any new unilateral agricultural sanction, or any new unilateral sanction with respect to medicine, medical supplies, or medical equipment, against a foreign country; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. TORRICELLI (for himself, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. LUGAR, Mr. DURBIN, and Mr. REID):

S. Res. 34. A resolution designating the week beginning April 30, 1999, as "National Youth Fitness Week"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. SNOWE:

S. Res. 35. A resolution relating to the treatment of veterans with Alzheimer's disease; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. LOTT (for himself, Mr. DASCHLE, Mr. MCCONNELL, and Mr. DODD):

S. Res. 36. A resolution authorizing the taking of photographs in the Chamber of the United States Senate; considered and agreed to.

By Ms. SNOWE (for herself and Ms. MIKULSKI):

S. Con. Res. 9. A concurrent resolution calling for a United States effort to end restrictions on the freedoms and human rights of the enclaved people in the occupied area of Cyprus; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. BROWNBACK (for himself, Mr. GRAMS, Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire, Mr. ASHCROFT, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. KYL, Mr. ALLARD, Mr. HELMS, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. ABRAHAM, Mr. NICKLES, Mr. SANTORUM, and Mr. HAGEL):

S. 410. A bill to provide for offsetting tax cuts whenever there is an elimination of a discretionary spending program; to the Committee on the Budget and the Committee on Governmental Affairs, jointly, pursuant to order of August 4, 1977, with instructions that if one Committee reports, the other Committee have thirty days to report or be discharged.

PAYGO REFORM

• Mr. BROWNBACK. Mr. President, today I am introducing a bill, cosponsored by several of my colleagues that would reform the current pay-as-you-go financing mechanism of our federal government.

As a critical step to help reform the federal government, I believe that we need to change Congressional Budget Rules that make it illegal to use cuts in inefficient government spending to pay for tax cuts. Over the past century, our budget rules have been written in a way that favors spending over savings. We must fundamentally reform Pay-as-you-go (PAYGO) financing this year

beyond the current law understanding which effectively turns PAYGO off during periods of an on-budget surplus.

Currently, according to PAYGO, Congress cannot make cuts in wasteful, even harmful government discretionary spending programs in order to finance tax cuts. For example, we can't cut the Advanced Technology Program in the Department of Commerce to pay for a capital gains tax cut. Rather, Congress has to make cuts in popular mandatory spending programs like Social Security and Medicare in order to pay for its tax cuts. I believe it is wrong to pit Social Security and Medicare against tax cuts. We need to flip the table on this false tradeoff by pitting tax cuts against wasteful big government spending.

Such a change would amount to a paradigm shift in how government functions and would help limit the size of government while at the same time providing additional resources for meaningful tax relief. The machinery of government is constructed to spend. We need reengineering of government so that the machinery produces savings.

My bill would change budget law in order to allow for tax cuts to be implemented in the amount of program eliminations. In practice, if we are able to eliminate a program during consideration of an appropriations measure, that money would be credited to the PAYGO scorecard and reserved for tax cuts.

Therefore, should my bill be enacted, we could eliminate programs like the Advanced Technology Program, the National Endowment for the Arts, the Department of Commerce, and a whole host of other government programs while at the same time giving the taxpayers the tax relief they deserve—and we can do it without making draconian cuts to mandatory spending programs that ultimately do little to save the programs and much to simply prolong the crisis.

Mr. President, I look forward to the coming debate on budget process reforms. I look forward to the bill that is being considered jointly by the Governmental Affairs and Budget Committees, and I look forward to working with the chairmen of each in order to accomplish the type of budget reform that we truly need. •

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Mr. JEFFORDS, Mr. CONRAD, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. MURKOWSKI, Mr. SMITH of Oregon, Mr. WELLSTONE, Mr. CHAFEE, Mr. BREAUX, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. MACK, Mr. DASCHLE, Mr. DORGAN, and Mr. BURNS).

S. 414. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a 5-year extension of the credit for producing electricity from wind, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

WIND ENERGY TAX CREDIT

• Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce important tax legislation for myself and Senators JEFFORDS, CONRAD, MURKOWSKI, LEAHY, WELLSTONE, CHAFEE, SMITH of Oregon, BREAUX, GRAHAM, MACK, DASCHLE, and DORGAN.

Our legislation extends the production tax credit for energy generated by wind. This proposed bill resembles bipartisan legislation introduced in November of 1998 that, unfortunately, was not enacted.

As original author of the Wind Energy Incentives Act of 1993, I strongly believe that the expansion and development of wind energy must be facilitated by this production tax credit.

The Senate has previously supported wind energy production tax credit legislation. I would therefore like to request that Senators again consider this valuable initiative that would help secure this untapped potential for clean power.

Wind, unlike most energy sources, is an efficient and environmentally safe form of energy use. Wind is renewable and does not obligate the United States to rely on unstable foreign states for sources of energy.

This legislation extends the production tax credit through the month of June, 2004. We all know the damaging effects fossil fuels have on our environment. Wind energy, by contrast, is clean, safe, and abundant within the United States.

Every 10,000 megawatts of wind energy can reduce carbon monoxide emissions by 33 million metric tons. Today, the United States produces only 1,700 megawatts of wind energy. However, experts estimate that American wind capacity can produce up to 30,000 megawatts by the year 2010—that is enough energy to meet the demands of over 10 million homes, while reducing pollution in every state.

The production tax credit has brought wind power generation costs almost down to the same as coal and gas energy levels. In order to continue this investment in America's energy future, we must extend the production tax credit.

Currently, my own state of Iowa has 5 new wind power projects ready to go online just this year. These 5 projects, with the megawatt capacity of over 240, join the already existing 6 facilities in Iowa. Even large petroleum producing states like Texas, ranked 2nd in the Nation in wind energy potential, recognize the growing significance of wind power.

Renewing the wind tax credit would allow for greater expansion into the wind energy field. These projects take a long time to develop and assured tax breaks would help facilitate more wind power construction contracts. Withhold the tax credit and investment will surely decline for new wind projects.